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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Yugoslavia

DATE:

SUBJECT The Azusa Coal Mines

INFO.

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1. Of the coal mines in the Arsia area, only the mines at Arsia, Roccasana, and Piedalbona are in operation. The mines at Pedana, Stermasio and Rependa have been closed because of the lack of workers willing to be employed under the present conditions in the mines.
2. About 3,800 workers are employed. Hundreds are reported recently to have left because of poor working conditions, low wages, compulsory donations (e.g., aid to Spanish Communists), forced labor and little food.
3. Some of those engaged in forced labor are "reactionary" elements from from towns near the Greek and Albanian frontiers. It was feared that they might enlist in the regular Greek formation fighting the guerrillas.
4. It is estimated that production at the mines has, in the last few months, been reduced by fifty percent, as a result of the constant desertion of workers.
5. The mines have become state property and are run by Ing. Sentaka. A trade union committee has also been formed under the presidency of Giuseppe Golia; other members are Mario Scopaz, Vittorio Juricic and Lucia Viscovic.
6. in the first few days of June 1947, the number of workers employed in the Arsia mine reached 600, its lowest level. This forced the technical manager of the mine to reduce the number of shifts to one a day, and to ask Belgrade, through VUJA in Abbazia, for assistance.
7. Acting on this request, Belgrade transferred 400 Macedonians to Arsia. These refused to make any use of mining machinery, and insisted on working by hand, with the result that coal production has reached a very low level. Belgrade is now considering transferring them to Sarajevo.

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9. In early July, 1,500 German PWs were drafted for work in the mines. These men are in such poor physical condition that their presence is not expected to make any appreciable difference to the present low level of production.

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